

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY CHEER FOR STUDENTS AND PATIENTS
AT STATE FACILITIES**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that the state is providing plants to students and patients in state facilities. The plants were grown by inmates at several state prisons who are studying horticulture in vocational programs. The plants will be delivered today to the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, the N.C. School for the Deaf in Morganton, the Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf in Wilson, and Dorothea Dix Hospital and the Adult Rehabilitation Center of the N.C. Division of Services for the Blind in Raleigh.

“These inmates are learning a skill that can lead to meaningful employment after their release,” said Easley. “They are also spreading some holiday cheer to many who are away from their families during this holiday season.”

Prisons participating in the project include Avery/Mitchell Correctional Institution in Spruce Pine, Marion Correctional Institution, Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, Hyde Correctional Institution in Swan Quarter, Cabarrus Correctional Center in Mt. Pleasant, Lumberton Correctional Institution, Carteret Correctional Center in Newport and Johnston Correctional Institution in Smithfield. Each of these prisons teach horticulture classes for inmates in conjunction with a local community college.

The plants are of several varieties, including aloe vera, schefflera, snake plant and flowering baskets. Inmates at N.C. Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh assisted in the project by decorating many of the plants with holiday paper and bows.

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Note to Editors: Plants will be delivered in Raleigh, Morganton and Wilson today. If you are interested in covering the delivery, please contact the Department of Correction Public Affairs office at 919/716-3700.

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